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MEMORANDUM FOR LT. GENERAL WALTER ENDELL SMITH  
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

I concur in the draft memorandum and its recommendations which you have prepared for the President and which you transmitted to us with your note of May 14, but would suggest two changes in wording.

The word "report" in the second sentence of the first paragraph would be less confusing if it were changed to "analysis" in order to make it clear that what is referred to is this paper you are submitting and not Mr. Gray's report itself.

In the fifth paragraph, I suggest that the wording be changed to make our recommendation to the President a little less pressing. It would be better to have the first part of that first sentence read:

"On the other hand, from its study of the report and in light of the present world situation, the Board feels that it would be helpful if, at an appropriate opportunity, you chose to restate to the country and to the world . . ."

The State Department has two specific reservations about a public statement by the President on the subject of psychological warfare. In the first place, we feel that the occasion of such a speech should be carefully selected and should be justified by some current event. A speech on this subject otherwise might be confusing. In the second place we feel, as I am sure you do too, that public speeches about psychological warfare operations may in fact impair the effectiveness of those operations. Psychological warfare at this time is such an integral part of our foreign policy that anything said on the subject must be weighed carefully to be sure that the effect on the foreign policy would be a beneficial one.

*XHS*  
Under Secretary

P:JBPhillips:BHPatterson:mbv

5/16/52

I - Cleared with Dr. Compton  
S/P - Cleared with Mr. Nitze  
A - Mr. Chapman, Mr. Crutcher

State Dept. review completed

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